



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Hannah Bridge in Linn County, OREGON, reference number 79002116 and part of the Oregon Covered Bridges Thematic Resource, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 11/29/1979, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST Vol. 45 number 54, notice of Tuesday, March 18, 1980, page 17475. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

For the Keeper: 
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2-3-2010
Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Hannah Bridge, Index No. 50

County Linn

Stream or River Thomas Creek

Location Burmester Creek Road, off Highway 226, ca. 7½ miles east of Scio

NW¼ SW¼ Sec. 8, T.10S., R.1E., W.M.

Zone. 10 E522360 N4950800 Snow Peak Quadrangle

Acreage and Boundary Description Full width of road right-of-way
for the distance between abutments and ten feet additional
at either end, containing in all approximately 7500 square feet.

Present Owner Linn County Board of Commissioners

Linn County Courthouse

Albany, OR 97321

Date of Construction 1936

Description of Bridge

Length of span 105 feet

Truss type Howe truss

Cladding Board and batten. Central sections of side walls
open, rafters to deck, with flared skirting at base.

Roofing Metal-clad gable roof

Decking Wood overlaid with asphalt

Other salient features Segmental portal arches. Central sections
of side walls open. Exposed beams at gable ends. Roadway width: 19'. Timber
trestle approaches.

Legal description is included in the appropriate County Road Department
right-of-way files and County Deed Records.

Information based on following sources: Statewide Inventory Form prepared by
Stephen Dow Beckham, 1976. Typescript on Oregon Covered Bridges by Nick and
Bill Cockrell, 1977.

Bridge Index No. 50
Hannah Covered Bridge
Vicinity of Jordan
Linn County, Oregon
North Elevation

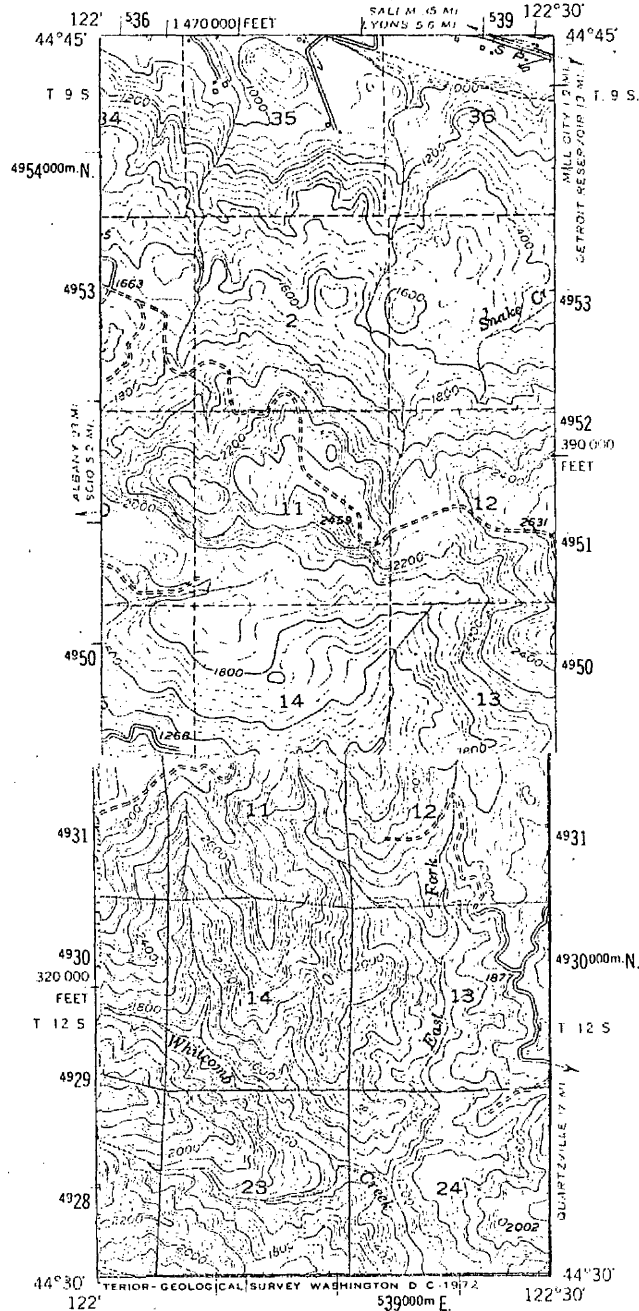
Stephen Dow Beckham Photo, 1976
History Department
Lewis and Clark College
615 SW Palantine Hill Road
Portland, OR 97209



(STAYTON)
1973 IV

SNOW PEAK QUADRANGLE
OREGON-LINN CO.
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1973 IV
(MILL CITY)



(BROWNVILLE)
1972 IV

(CASCADIA)
1972 IV

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
1963

Medium duty — — — Light duty

Unimproved dirt

○ State Route

50

HANNAH COVERED BRIDGE
SNOW PEAK, OREG. 10/522360/4950800
N4430—W12230/15

1951

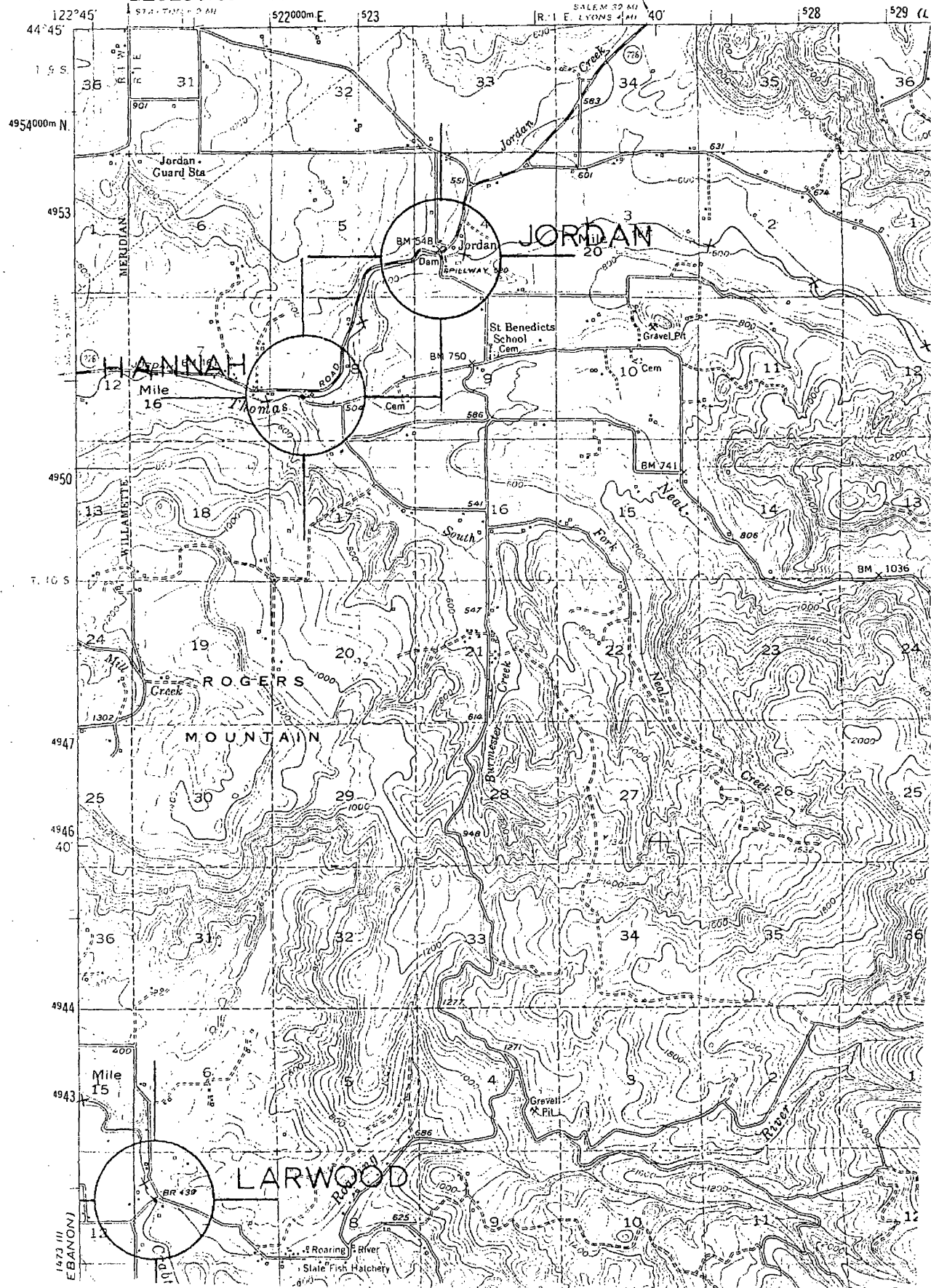
AMS 1473 II - SERIES 7792
JORDAN COVERED BRIDGE
10/523970/4952370
ARWOOD COVERED BRIDGE
10/520690/4941670

49

45

1923 (STATTON)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



1923 (EBAWON)

Hannah Bridge
Stream: Thomas Creek
Built: 1936
World Guide No.: 37-22-02

T10S R2E S7
Truss: Howe
Length: 105

#50

The Hannah Bridge is another example of leaving trusses partially exposed by open sides. Although there is no apparent cost savings, the improved vision for drivers and a more pleasing appearance are the advantages of this type of design.

Several years ago, the Thomas Y Store and gasoline station existed close by, but have since closed. The price on the now empty gas pump was noted to be 34.9¢ per gallon.

The Hannah Bridge spans Thomas Creek just $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream from the Jordan covered bridge. Thomas Creek is named for Fr derick Thomas, who obtained a Donation Land Claim and settled on the banks of the stream in 1846. Area residents recognize the stream as one of the most important in Linn County.

To get there:

#50

County Linn

Theme 6-A

Name
(Common) Hannah Covered Bridge

(Historic) (same)

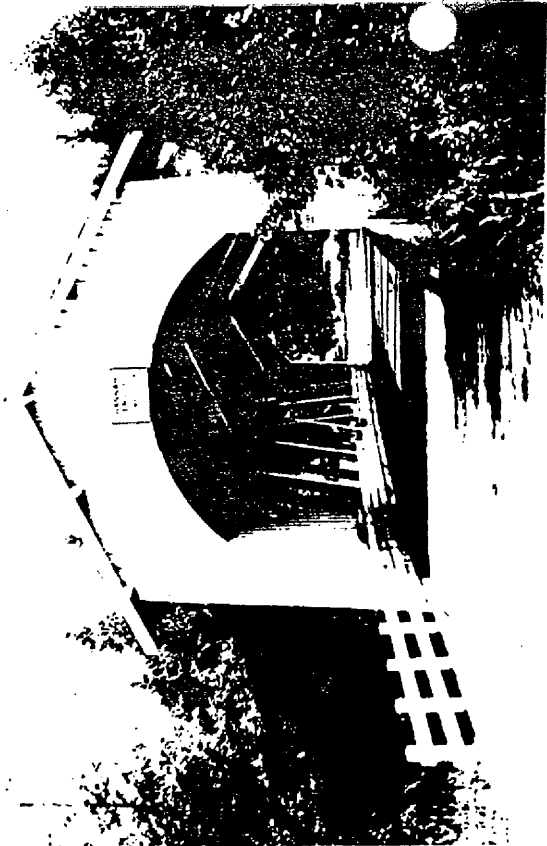
Address Burmester Creek Road
Jordan, Oregon

Present Owner Linn County

(Address) Albany, Oregon

Original Use Covered Bridge

Date of Construction 1936

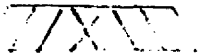


Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Hannah Covered Bridge is a span of 105 feet across Thomas Creek which was erected in 1936. The bridge has a vertical board and batten exterior and a gable roof. The exterior siding flares at the base. The bridge is open on the east and west elevations for lighting.

In an interview with Frank Kaiser in 1972, Jo Sommer reported that this bridge was built in 1929 or 1930. Kaiser was in charge of construction.

The truss arrangement is as follows:



Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 30 June 1976 Sources Consulted:

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Sommer, Jo. "Linn Covets Downed Covered Bridges," Statesman, July 9, 1972.

Please enclose map Township 10S Range 1W Section 8

(over)

BRIDGE REPAIRS, REBUILDING COMPLETED IN 1990



Once again, traffic flows through the Wildcat (37-20-04) covered bridge, just off Highway 126 west of Eugene in Lane County. Crews worked during the summer to complete the rehabilitation which included a major overhaul of the structure. The roof, decking, bracing and other repairs makes the span look new again. A number of members reported that the bridge was reopened, and a trip to the bridge proved them right. The Wildcat span glows from the new wood and fresh paint.

At Earnest Bridge (37-20-35), most rehabilitation work is completed except for touch-up painting. Painting will be completed in the spring when the wood is dry. The renovation included concrete piers, new bracing, new approaches, and new decking. Visitors will be pleased to see the results, and photographers will note that some black berry bushes and trees have been removed making the bridge more accessible.



Lane County repaired the damaged needle beam at the Wendling Bridge (37-20-36). The old structure was enforced by a 4x6 crutch when the 1990 safari visited.

Traffic can now flow through the Mosby Creek Bridge (37-20-27) near Cottage Grove. This span also received major renovation this past autumn. This work included new decking, approaches, and piers. Also, a number of stringers were replaced and workers rebuilt the portal framing and added decorative portal brackets. New white paint will be added when weather permits.

Work has been completed on Polk County's Ritner Creek Bridge (37-27-01). New roofing, repairs to the flooring, new bracing, and new paint round out the repair work at that site. Although vehicular traffic does not pass through the span, the county determined the old wooden bridge met historic significance worthy of this attention. The bridge is now in excellent shape and looks good.

Upper: Wildcat Bridge in Lane County completely repaired.
Lower: Earnest Bridge in Lane County nearing completion.

Several Linn County roofed structures were renovated during the past months. County funds matched with state covered bridge money helped the county gather support and interest to complete the renovation projects. Those bridges completed during the summer were Hannah, Shimanek, and Gilkey. Later this past fall, the Larwood Bridge (37-22-06) received considerable work, and was reopened just prior to Thanksgiving. Indications are that the Short Bridge (37-22-09) spanning the South Santiam River near Cascadia will receive major repair in the near future. Future issues of the BRIDGE TENDER will report on any work at that site.

and 60 cubic yards of concrete in the renewed span. Said Stein, "We hope to be done before the deadline date. I would like us to see us finished by October 1." Total cost of the project is close to \$235,000.

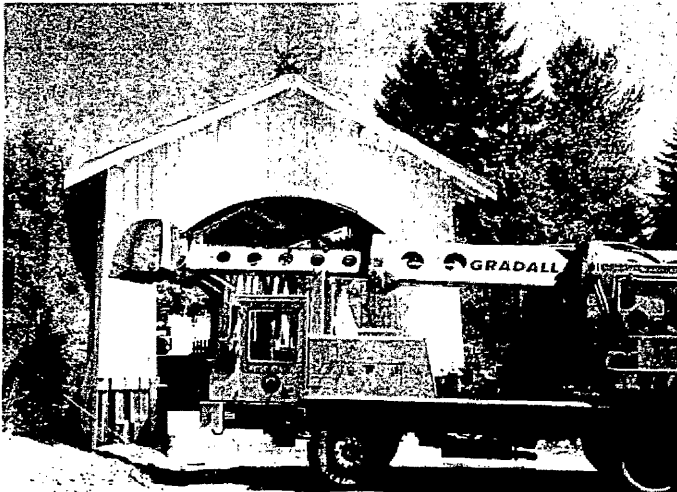
The bridge has had a colorful history dating back to 1916-1917 when it was built. It has been repaired numerous times, the most complete was after the 1964 Christmas flood which destroyed or damaged a number of Oregon covered spans. The name, **Gallon House** was due to the fact that a gallon house actually sat on the Mt. Angel end of the bridge. Silverton was "dry" and allowed no liquor to be sold, but Mt. Angel was "wet" permitting liquor to be sold by the quart or gallon, but not by the drink. Gallon houses existed until population and social trends changed the need for them.

In 1985, the old wooden structure was closed to traffic when a damaged chord rendered it useless. County crews repaired that damage and changed the shape and size of the portals. In addition, the bridge was painted.

LINN COUNTY BRIDGES GET REPAIRED

*7/11/90 10:00 AM
VOL. 11 NO. 2
SUMMER 1990*

Work has been completed on the **Hannah Bridge** (37-22-02) in July. The flooring was repaired and asphalt removed. According to the work crew, the asphalt flooring was replaced as well as the wooden approaches. Concrete approaches were installed. In addition, the supporting stringers were replaced.



Repair work in the process at Hannah Bridge in July.

In all, four of the Linn County roofed bridges will be worked on this summer. They include **Hannah**, **Larwood** (37-22-06), **Shimanek** (37-22-03), and **Gilkey** (37-22-04). Larwood and Shimanek will receive the same type of repair work as Hannah and each will be closed for about a month. All repair except the concrete approaches are eligible for state matching funds under the covered bridge inspection and maintenance program. The repair work at the **Gilkey Bridge** (37-22-04) involves the replacement of the deck, the roof, and an upper chord. Work on the Gilkey span could begin as early as August, and could cost an estimated \$65,000 according to the Albany **DEMOCRAT-HERALD**.

NOTES FROM THE BRIDGE LOG...

Curt Ward of the Jordan Bridge Company conducted a covered bridge tour Saturday, June 30--sponsored by Chemeketa Community College. Alumni of the Polk County Bridgeport School met for a reunion and recalled memories of the school's "pecking order." Glenn Gage stated, "the bigger guys would hold the younger kids upside down on the old covered bridge and shake the marbles and everything out of their pockets." Gage completed his education at Bridgeport in 1915. I believe our member, Lew Holt attended the same school, but sometime later. An edition of the Salem **Statesman-Journal** featured the Scio-Stayton area covered bridges earlier this summer. We also noted during the basketball Western Conference Play-offs, one game's ticket featured the Chitwood covered span. Bea Duffy sent a bicycle tour book of Douglas County which included a bike ride through the Neal Lane roofed span. The tour guide included construction facts: Floyd C. Frear as county engineer. Homer Gallop as bridge foreman, and costs of the bridge

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE HANNAH BRIDGE

by Aileen M. Howell

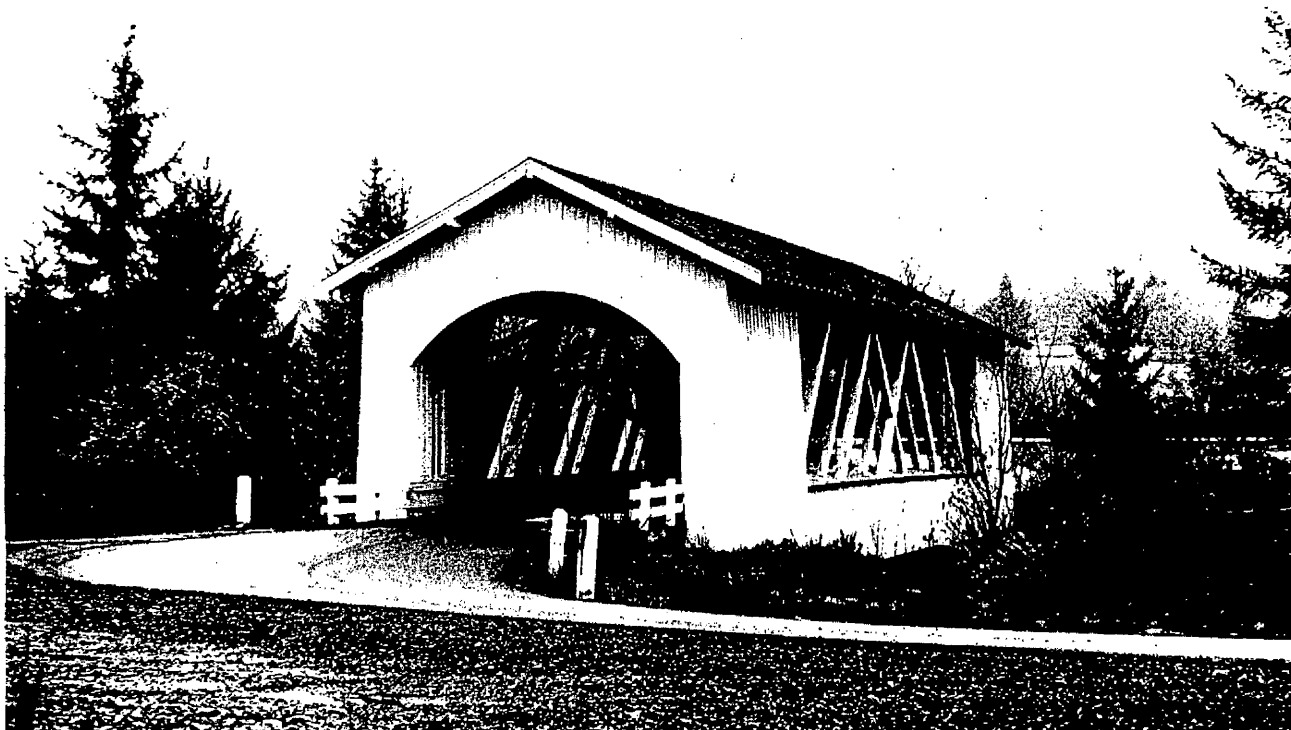
The Hannah Bridge was named for my grandfather, John Joseph Hannah who came across the plains by wagon train from Iowa in 1853. He later made application to the General Land Office and was granted a tract of 151 acres located seven miles east of Scio in Linn County, Oregon. Bilyeu Creek runs through the entire property and Thomas Creek runs just inside the border along one side. The land grant was signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on December 1, 1871, and was filed on June 7, 1882.

John J. Hannah had one of the first sawmills in the area which was powered by water from Bilyeu Creek. I have a saw from the mill of which I am very proud.

I have been unable to determine whether there was a bridge before 1912-1913, but there was a covered bridge at that time over Thomas Creek a very short distance east of the present structure which was built in 1936 at the confluence of Bilyeu and Thomas Creeks.

My uncle, Sankie Hannah and his wife, Lilah lived on the homestead at the time and deeded the right of way for the new bridge. They got the lumber from the old bridge to build their wood shed and sheep shed, which to the best of my knowledge are still standing today. A Mr. Tomlinson helped build the bridge and my aunt tells me it rained most of the time during the construction.

My mother and her sister and two brothers were all born on the homestead. I have many happy memories of time spent both at the old house and a newer one that was built across the road from the original. Many times I have gone across Bilyeu Creek on a log to pick evergreen blackberries or to wander around the woods enjoying the wild flowers and the peaceful setting. I still enjoy a trip to what my mother called "The Home Place" just to look at the bridge and the beautiful creek which runs under it.



Hannah Bridge, 37-22-02 in its peaceful setting. Photo: Bill Cockrell